



CHULA VISTA CHAMBER of COMMERCE

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February 8, 2007

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Lester Snow, Director
California Department of Water Resources
P.O. Box 942836, Room 1115-1
Sacramento, CA 94236-0001

Dear Director Snow:

In 2005, three agencies - the city of San Diego, and the county of San Diego, and the San Diego County Water Authority - signed an MOU forming the Regional Water Management Group for the San Diego region. This group was formed to work with governmental and non-governmental stakeholders throughout the region to develop the first ever San Diego Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP), a plan that will help ensure the long-term viability of the region's water supply, water quality, and natural resources in partnership with the city of San Diego, county of San Diego, Water Authority and numerous stakeholders throughout the county. The group was formed to also submit a Proposition 50 Grant Application for work related to the IRWMP. Tremendous progress towards the goals of the IRWMP has been made and the draft of the plan will be released in March. The Regional Water Management Group had expected to participate as a region in the Proposition 50, Cycle 2, Grant Application process.

The Chula Vista Chamber of Commerce is very concerned by the recent Department of Water Resources (DWR) and State Water Resources Board (SWRCB) staff proposal to summarily abandon the Proposition 50, Cycle 2, Grant Application process in favor of awarding grant funding to the nine proposals that were not selected during Step 2 of Cycle 1. The proposal is inconsistent with the November 2004 Grant Program Guidelines. The 2004 guidelines were prepared with extensive stakeholder input and clearly state that there would be two open and competitive funding cycles. Changing the rules of the program in the middle of the funding process unfairly denies regions such as San Diego an opportunity to compete for these funds.

In addition, our Chamber opposes any proposal to combine Proposition 50 and Proposition 84 funds. It is critical that the funds remain separate. The state must recognize that the voters of the state passed two separate and independent measures. The funding process must provide fair access for all California regions to both sources of funding, as has always been the stated intention of DWR and the SWRCB.

The Chula Vista Chamber of Commerce strongly urges DWR and the SWRCB to adhere to the established guidelines for distribution of Proposition 50 grant funding.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Charles Moore

President

Chula Vista Chamber of Commerce

Lisa Cohen

CEO

Chula Vista Chamber of Commerce

CC: San Diego County Legislative Delegation
Tracie Billington, Department of Water Resources
Shahla Farahnak, State Water Resources Control Board